(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There are in all 30 (thirty) State Agricultural Universities, 5 (five) Deemed Universities and 1 (one) Central Agricultural University in the country.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Agriculture education is a State subject.

Documentation of milk products sent to WFO

†3530. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Research Institute has sent documentations regarding milk made sweets and domestic milk products, in order to prevent multinational companies from getting these items patented;

(b) if so, the number of documentations sent to World Food Organisation so far in this regard;

(c) to what extent Government have achieved success in this regard, so far; and

(d) the other steps Government would take in this direction in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir, since traditional dairy products being generic in nature cannot be patented as per existing patent regulations. The technology of manufacture of these products is well documented in the literature and therefore, documents on this product have not been sent to the World Food Organization.

(b) Question does not arise, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise, Sir.

(d) In future, as and when a modern technology related to traditional dairy products is developed, it will be documented and patented.

Health hazard from pesticide in Kerala

3531. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article captioned, "spray of misery" which appeared in the India Today dated 23rd July, 2001 on

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the serious health hazard being faced by people in parts of Kerala due to spraying of a pesticide Endosulphan, banned in most countries, on cashew plantations by the Plantations Corporation of Kerala, a public sector undertaking;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto, alongwith the size of the affected pupulation; and

(c) the steps taken to ban/check the use of this hazardous pesticide and the measures taken to protect the population inhabitating" cashew growing areas?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala have already issued orders to stop the aerial spraying of Endosulfan on cashew plantations.

(c) Endosulfan has been reviewed for its continued use or otherwise in the country twice in 1991 and 1999 by the Expert Committees. Both these Committees have recommended the continue use of Endosulfan in the country.

Further, the Government is propularising Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach which encourages adoption of improved agronomic practices like use of pest resistant/tolerant crop varieties, mechanical control, use of biological control agents *viz.* parasites and predators which cause natural suppression of pests and need based use of safer pesticides and bio-pesticides.

UNDRC assistance for natural disasters

3532. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article captioned, "Blame it on the forces of nature" by Sunder K. Datta Ray appearing in The Business Standard, New Delhi dated the 28th January, 2001;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that India heads the list of countries along with China, Hongkong and Philippines that are vulnerable to natural disaster;

(c) whether India has ever made a request to the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordination (UNDRC) for assistance; and

(d) if not, whether Government are thinking to make such request now looking to the present Flood Disaster in Orissa, a calamity-prone State in India?